Sturgis shot at Kennedy, report says

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NEW YORK — Convicted Watergate burglar Frank Sturgis was held in $25,000 bail Tuesday on a charge that [redacted] testimony of ex-spy Marita Lorenz, who allegedly told federal investigators after his arrest that Sturgis shot at President John Kennedy from the grassy knoll in Dallas.

Sources revealed that Lorenz broke down in an intense cross-examination

Tangled connection between Lorenz and Sturgis interests investigators. Story on Page 4-A

by Robert Blakey, the general counsel to the House Assassination Committee, and tearfully maintained that she had "documentary and photographic" evidence to prove that Sturgis shot at Kennedy.

The sources said her testimony does not alter the fact that Kennedy was

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shot by Lee Harvey Oswald from the ~~Dallas Book Depository, but that it did~~ fit in with conspiracy theories that maintain there was more than one person firing at Kennedy as he rode through Dallas in a motorcade.

Blakey flew into New York Tuesday after Sturgis was arrested Monday near Lorenz' apartement on E. 88th St and charged with harassment and attempted coercion.

Sources said Blakey interviewed the ex-spy in a small room at Manhattan Criminal Court.

(The Associated Press reported that Blakey declined to confirm or deny that committee staffers have been told that Sturgis shot at President Kennedy. Blakey denied the report that he personally had heard that account Tuesday from ex-spy Marita Lorenz. But earlier, when asked if she had made the allegation to committee investigators, Blakey replied: "No comment."

(His only other comment was that if investigators had such a story, they would have to check it out. Blakey said "I've never met her in my life" and said he was not in New York City Tuesday.)

At Sturgis' hearing before Judge Milton Samorodin, defense attorney Ron Golfarb argued that Sturgis should be set free because he has "never missed an appointment" during his many court appearances and meetings with federal probers. He said Sturgis was here on business and that he was a lecturer.

Another defense attorney, Henry Rothblatt, charged that the accusations against Sturgis resulted from "absurd charges by a psychotic woman."

He argued that Lorenz had sent Stur- [illegible]

and then "set him up" by offering meet him at her apartment.

The incident on Monday also includ the arrest of Lorenz' 15-year-old daug ter, Monica Mercedes Perez Jimen who was picked up with a loaded pis in her pocket. She allegedly bought t pistol to protect her mother from St gis, but she was arrested before he rived.

Lorenz met Sturgis in 1959 while s was living in Havana with Cuban P mier Fidel Castro. Sturgis, then kno as Frank Fiorini, was an officer in C tro's revolutionary army and a cont agent for the CIA.

He recruited Lorenz to spy on Cast Later, when both Lorenz and Stur left Cuba, he allegedly sent her back two CIA missions — the first to st documents and the second to assassin Castro.

Six weeks ago, Lorenz told the N York News that she accompanied St gis, Oswald and four Cubans on a trip from Miami to Dallas a few d before President Kennedy was m dered in Dallas.

She said they were all members o CIA-approved "assassination squa known as Operation 40.

Investigators Gaeton Fonzi and Gonzalez of the House Assassinati Committee interviewed Miss Lorenz Saturday, when she reportedly repea the same story she told the News.

When the investigators left, Lore allegedly received a phone call advis her that Sturgis was coming to N York, and subsequent callers convin here that Sturgis would try to make h change her story.

It was after this that her daugh bought the gun and told the moth [illegible]